

**CLAIMS**

WE CLAIM:

- 1        1. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:
  - 4            receiving said call intended for said called party;
  - 5            sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party to said call; and
  - 7            receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call.
- 1        2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to said data terminal via said telephone line so that said calling party may communicate with said called party.
- 1        3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of packetizing telephone voice signals received from said calling party for transmission to said data terminal.
- 1        4. The method of claims 2 further comprising the step of generating telephone voice signals based on packetized speech signals received from said data terminal.
- 1        5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to a voice mail system.
- 1        6. The method of claim 1, wherein in response to said call disposition election, said call is not routed to said data terminal.

1        7. The method of claim 6 wherein said call is terminated.

1        8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1        9. The method of claim 8 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1        10. The method of claim 8 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1        11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1        12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is not invoked.

1        13. The method of claim 1 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1        14. The method of claim 1 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1        15. The method of claim 14 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

1        16. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called  
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an  
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4        receiving said call intended for said called party;

5        sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party  
6 to said call;

7        receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received  
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9        in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to said data terminal via  
10 said telephone line so that said calling party may communicate with said called party.

1        17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of packetizing telephone  
2 voice signals received from said calling party for transmission to said data terminal.

1        18. The method of claims 16 further comprising the step of generating telephone  
2 voice signals based on packetized speech signals received from said data terminal.

1        19. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1        20. The method of claim 19 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1        21. The method of claim 19 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1        22. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1        23. The method of claim 16 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1        24. The method of claim 16 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1        25. The method of claim 24 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

1        26. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called  
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an  
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4        receiving said call intended for said called party;

5        sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party  
6 to said call;

7        receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received  
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9        in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to a voice mail system.

1        27. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1        28. The method of claim 27 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1        29. The method of claim 27 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1        30. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1        31. The method of claim 26 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1        32. The method of claim 26 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1        33. The method of claim 32 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

1        34. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a  
2 called party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an  
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4        receiving said call intended for said called party;

5        sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party  
6 to said call;

7        receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received  
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9       in response to said call disposition election, initiating the termination of said call.

1       35. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1       36. The method of claim 35 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1       37. The method of claim 35 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1       38. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1       39. The method of claim 34 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1       40. The method of claim 34 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1       41. The method of claim 40 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

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